

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SCS-03 SCA-01 OC-06 CCO-00
A-01 OPR-02 L-03 SY-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /050 W
-----211407Z 127834 /53

O R 211322Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8769
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COTONOU IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LOME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 0723

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, CASC, PFOR, AEMR, DM, NI, US
SUBJECT: BENIN COUP ATTEMPT: WELFARE OF C&R STAFFER J. DAVIS

REF: (A) STATE 13709; (B) COTONOU 150; (C) LAGOS 688

1. EXPLAINING THAT EMBASSY ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, WE ASKED MEA THIS MORNING FOR NIGERIAN ASSISTANCE IN GAINING RELEASE OF C&R STAFFER DAVIS. WA PROVIDED NECESSARY BACKGROUND INFORMATION (INCLUDING SUMMARY OF OUR TALKS WITH PRUDENCIO, (REFTEL C.) DAVIS' TDY STATUS, AND FACT THAT HE IS HOLDER DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT) TO DIRECTOR AMERICAN DEPARTMENT WHO AGREED TO "MAKE ENQUIRIES" TO SEE WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR FMG INTERCEDE WITH GPRB ON OUR BEHALF. DURING DISCUSSION, DIRECTOR WONDERED ALOUD WHETHER AMBASSADOR IHAMA HAD BEEN ABLE TO RETURN TO COTONOU AS HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED. COTONOU MIGHT WISH TO ATTEMPT CONTACT IHAMA DIRECTLY TO ENLIST SUPPORT. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, WE TOLD DIRECTOR THAT WE WANTED DAVIS RELEASED TO EMBASSY TO ENABLE HIM TO PERFORM HIS NORMAL OFFICIAL
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DUTIES, NOT REPEAT NOT TO TAKE HIM OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

2. AT CONCLUSION OF CONVERSATION, DIRECTOR ASKED THAT WE KEEP OUR DISCUSSIONS OF THIS MATTER "INFORMAL" AND THAT WE NOT REPEAT NOT SUBMIT A FORMAL WRITTEN REQUEST TO MEA. WE INTERPRET THIS REACTION TO BE FURTHER EVIDENCE OF NIGERIAN SKITTISHNESS OVER POTENTIAL FOR EMBARRASSMENT TO FMG OF HELPING

NON-AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WHOSE NATIONALS MIGHT AT LATER DATE
BE CONNECTED WITH LAST WEEKEND'S ATTEMPTED COUP (LAGOS 521)
WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT DIRECTOR HIMSELF WILL DO EVERYTHING
POSSIBLE TO BE RESPONSIVE. HE HOPES TO BE ABLE TO CALL US
BACK BY COB TODAY WITH STATUS REPORT ON HIS EFFORTS.
WHETHER HIS PLOY OF KEEPING OUR REQUEST OUT OF FORMAL CHANNELS
WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN FINESSING OBJECTIONS REMAINS TO BE
SEEN. WOULD APPRECIATE NIACT IMMEDIATE ADVICE WHENEVER
DAVIS IS RELEASED.

3. FOR COTONOU: CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION IS CONCERNED OVER
CONDITION OF A SON OF AN UNIDENTIFIED CIDA MAN WHO IS UNDERSTOOD
TO HAVE BEEN INJURED. HIGH COMMISSION INFORMS US THAT GUY
CLAVEAU AT CIDA OFFICE IN COTONOU WOULD BE ABLE PROVIDE BEST
INFORMATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, ARRESTS, FOREIGN SERVICE STAFF EMPLOYEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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